

The Safety Net

Eastern Virginia Medical School's Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter
https://myportal.evms.edu/research/safety/environmental_health_and_safety

Summer 2022
Volume 125



Special Interest Articles:

- EPA Rule on Pharmaceuticals
- Recycling at EVMS
- Stormwater Runoff
- Water Bottle Stations

Individual Highlights:

Fire Safety	1
Pharma Manage	2
EPA Rule	2
Res Pro Update	3
Recycling	3
Stormwater	4
SciShield	4
Water Bottle St	5
S.O.B.	6
Notes	6

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

Did you know that in 58 % of fatal campus fires, smoke alarms were either missing or tampered with? September is Fire Safety Month and a great time for you to educate yourself with helpful fire safety information. Some statistics that will give you a better perspective of campus fires and the importance of fire safety:

- From 2015-2019, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,840 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and other related properties. These fires caused annual averages of 29 civilian injuries and \$11 million in direct property damage.
- September and October were the peak months for fires in dormitory properties, and they are more common during the evening hours between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- Cooking equipment was involved in 87% of reported fires in dormitory-type properties.

It's safe to say that most fatal campus fires occur in the dormitories and apartments!

Smoking: After a party or friendly gathering, check for smoking materials and ensure that they are properly disposed. Nearly 75% of people who die in smoking related fires were killed by fires that started in either upholstered furniture or a mattress. There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths as intoxication impairs judgement and hampers evacuation efforts. If a person is intoxicated, they may sleep through a smoke alarm or not react quick enough to escape.

Candles: Candles are another cause of campus fires. Candles left near objects such as curtains, blankets, or flammable material may cause a major fire at a fast pace. To prevent candle fires, make sure candles are in a sturdy holder, never leave a burning candle unattended, keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn, and put out candle after each use.

Cooking: Unattended cooking is by far the leading contributing factor in college cooking fires. Specifically, microwave popcorn fires are a major cause of cooking fires on campus. Here are some safety tips for preventing cooking fires.

- **Where you cook is important.** Cook only where it is permitted.
- **Water & grease don't mix.** Never use water to extinguish a grease fire – put a lid on it.
- **Keep the fire in.** If a fire starts in the microwave or oven, keep the door closed and turn it off.
- **Stand by your pan.** If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- **Carbon monoxide poison is real.** To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, only use propane and charcoal grills outdoors.

Direct questions about campus fire safety to EVMS Fire and Life Safety at 757-446-5990.

US Fire Administration (2015). Campus Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2000-2015).
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/campus_fire_fatalities_report.pdf

EPA Rule on Pharmaceutical Management

EPA's Acting Administrator published the final rule, titled, "[Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine](#)" in the Federal Register (FR) on February 22, 2019. Effective since August 21, 2019, the EPA prohibited all healthcare facilities and reverse distributors from disposing of their hazardous waste pharmaceuticals down the drain (e.g., no flushing or pouring down a sink). This "sewer ban" is in effect at healthcare facilities, including hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, health clinics, physicians' offices, optical and dental providers, chiropractors, long-term care facilities, ambulance services, etc.

Here at EVMS, we prohibit the disposal of any pharmaceuticals in the medical waste boxes, the general trash, or down the drain. EH&S can help you dispose of your expired, unused and unwanted pharmaceuticals. To dispose of uncontrolled drugs or pharmaceuticals, contact EH&S and arrange for your drugs to be picked up. After being collected, EH&S will place them in a waste-pharmaceutical bin which will be transported by a licensed hazardous waste vendor to an off-site location to be incinerated.

If your drugs or pharmaceuticals being offered for disposal are controlled substances, contact Aaron Decker, Chemical & Environmental Safety Officer, at 757-446-5146 or deckerac@evms.edu. He will make arrangements with EVMS Police and Public Safety to have a police officer witness the destruction of the controlled substances (i.e. pouring the drugs into a container of flammable hazardous waste that will be transported by a licensed hazardous waste vendor for off-site incineration). A DEA Form - 41 is required to be filled out and signed by two witnesses for the final disposition of the controlled substances, and it must be kept on file for two years. If you should have any questions please contact EH&S at 757-446-5798 or ehs@evms.edu.



Res Pro's New Address

Respiratory protection has officially moved to BioRAFT. Individuals with patient contact must be fit tested annually in accordance with the EVMS Respiratory Protection Program and Federal regulations. Compliance consists of completing a medical questionnaire, achieving a passing score on training, and participating in an in-person fit test. To complete the simple fit testing process:

1. Complete the Medical Questionnaire and submit it to Occupational Health (https://www.evms.edu/about_evms/administrative_offices/occupational_health/medical_questionnaire/)
2. Log in to and complete the respiratory protection training on BioRAFT (<https://evms.bioraft.com/node/2000458>)
3. Schedule your respirator fit test at www.evmsfittest.acuityscheduling.com
4. Report to Lewis Hall 2142 on the date and time of your fit test

If you have any questions or concerns about the EVMS Respiratory Protection Program, please contact Environmental Health & Safety at 757-446-5798 or respiratorhelp@evms.edu.

Recycling at EVMS

We've all heard to recycle as much as possible. But what recycling programs are available here at EVMS? Here are some basic items that can be recycled at EVMS:

1. Paper and paperboard
2. Batteries
3. Plastics and glass
4. Bottles and Cans
5. e Waste (Electronic Waste)



Paper and paperboard (cardboard) materials comprise the largest component of municipal solid waste (MSW). Recyclable paper and paperboard materials include office papers, newspapers, corrugated boxes, milk cartons, and bags. Please help our custodians by flattening your boxes. Bottles and cans, please make sure they are empty. In order to avoid contamination, empty containers before putting them in a recycling bin. **Housekeeping** collects all these recyclables from the dedicated receptacles in the campus buildings, as well as in the general trash for our contracted vendor.



Battery Recycling container

Batteries contain heavy metals i.e., mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when batteries are inappropriately disposed of. **EH&S** accepts all types of batteries for recycling, including alkaline batteries., rechargeable batteries nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion (button batteries used in watches and hearing aids), laptop batteries and lead acid batteries. Simply leave the batteries in the yellow containers or call EH&S for pickup.

Recycling one ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space. Consumer plastics and glasses are collected in the general trash by **Housekeeping**, then separated by our contracted vendor. Separately, **EH&S** collects and recycles plastic tip rack boxes. Tip rack boxes should be deposited in the designated containers for EH&S collection.

eWaste can be arranged to pick up by **Materials Management** (MM). Please submit the [Moving Service Request](#) and [Property of Disposition](#) forms. Fill-out the form, sign and submit to MM for processing. Here are some basic items that can be recycled:

- Copiers
- CRTs, CPUs
- DVD players
- Laptops
- Microwaves
- Printers
- Ink and Toner cartridges (no form is needed)

Note: Before recycling electronic material, make sure that you deactivate the Property Office sticker and erase hard drive to remove sensitive data. Contact Materials Management at for more information.

Environmental Health and Safety can help answer your campus-related recycling questions. Call us a call at 757.446.5798 or email ehs@evms.edu.



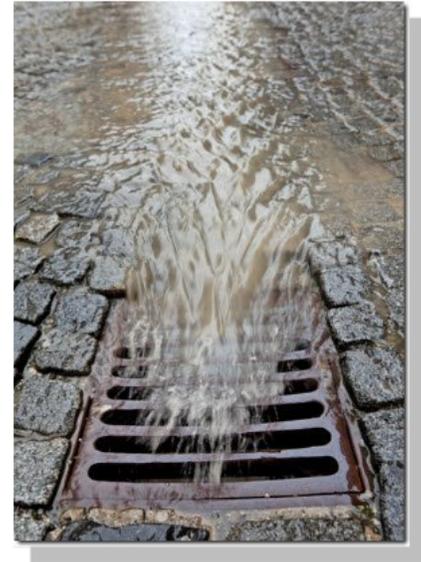
Tip Rack Box Recycling container

After the Storm...What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people. The following are some examples:

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris, such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts, washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.



For more information visit: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

BioRAFT is now SciShield

As of June 8, 2022, BioRAFT is now SciShield. The main corporate webpage www.bioraft.com now redirects to www.scishield.com. Company voicemails and signature lines have also changed. Other than that, no changes that affect the customer experience were made as BioRAFT/SciShield wanted to take time for the news to sink in and to enjoy this milestone. Customers will know the same leadership, implementation, sales, customer engagement, product, development, and support team members; please feel free to reach out to any one of us with questions. (Phone numbers and contact methods are the same, too!)

In the coming months, SciShield will reach out to work together with EVMS EH&S and IT team to plan migration of your current BioRAFT instance over to SciShield, which will include a URL change. SciShield will also distribute templates to help communicate the change to your organization.



2022 Virginia Sales Tax Holiday

Sales tax holidays are a temporary exemption from sales tax. These holidays often only apply to a small number of taxable items for a very limited time. These holidays usually take place in August during the traditional “back to school” season. In Virginia the 2022 sales tax holiday is August 5th - 7th. These dates fall over a long weekend- Friday through Sunday.

There are three categories that the sales tax holiday covers. The first is back to school supplies. In recent years, certain states have provided tax exemptions for energy efficient appliances and storm preparation equipment. Virginia is among these states by including hurricane and emergency preparedness supplies as the second category. The 2022 Virginia state tax holiday also includes Energy Star products priced at \$2,500 or less.

School Supplies, Clothing and Footwear:

- School Supplies: \$20 or less per item
- Clothing and footwear: \$100 or less per item

School Supplies, Clothing and Footwear:

- Portable generators: \$1,000 or less per item
- Gas powered chainsaws: \$350 or less per item
- Chainsaw accessories: \$60 or less per item
- Other specified hurricane preparedness items with a sales price of \$60 or less per item

EnergyStar or WaterSense items:

Qualifying items carrying either the EnergyStar™ or WaterSense™ label with a sales price of \$2,500 or less, purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

- Qualifying Energy Star™ items include dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, light bulbs, dehumidifiers, and refrigerators
- Qualifying WaterSense™ items include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories such as aerators and shower heads, toilets, urinals, and landscape irrigation controllers

Water Bottle Stations

With each passing day, plastic waste is making a bigger impact in our environment. As more time passes, eventually the plastic waste is going to leave its mark. Eventually there will be more plastic waste in the ocean than there are fish in the ocean. Overall, under a third of all plastic waste is recycled, and the products that are recycled are turned into products that can't be recycled further in the future. Actions need to be taken now to help reduce the plastic waste that is generated that eventually finds its way into the environment. When plastic is not recycled, it takes a very long time for plastic to breakdown. Roughly it takes 20 to 500 years for certain plastic items to decompose in landfills. However, plastic items do not biodegrade, instead the plastic is broken down into smaller and smaller pieces.

*As of June 28, 2022, the EVMS community has eliminated the waste from over **329,909** plastic bottles just from our water bottle stations alone!*

The water bottle stations located around the EVMS campus help reduce the amount of plastic waste that is generated by the EVMS community. These stations quickly fill reusable water bottles, and also keep any wasted water to a minimum due to its automatic on/off feature. The continued use of these stations will further help reduce the amount of plastic waste that is finding its way into the environments. These stations can be found in: Brickell Library, as well as Lewis, Lester, Andrews, and Hofheimer Halls



Ask the S.O.B.

Instead of a question, the Safety Office Boy has an announcement for this edition of the Safety Net.

Eastern Virginia Medical School earned a **Platinum Achievement** - 8 years for 2021! This award recognizes HRSD permittees with a perfect compliance record who have been subject to compliance requirements for at least one full calendar year. Recipients of these awards have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence.

The pretreatment awards are based on the following criteria:

- DIAMOND EXCELLENCE AWARD - 11 or more consecutive years of perfect compliance.
- DIAMOND AWARD - 10 consecutive years of perfect compliance.
- PLATINUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - 6 to 9 consecutive years of perfect compliance.
- PLATINUM AWARD - 5 consecutive years of perfect compliance.
- GOLD AWARD - 1 year of no administrative or technical violations; perfect compliance.

If you have questions or need assistance with the process, please contact EH&S at x5798 or ehs@evms.edu.



Safety Office Boy to the rescue!

Notes from the Office

EH&S Training Courses.

Course	Date/Time	Location
Chemical Hygiene Plan	July 21, 2022 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
	August 19, 2022 1:30 - 4:30 PM	Lewis Hall 3172
	September 15, 2022 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
Radiation Safety in the Laboratory	Contact EH&S	
Biosafety in the Laboratory Biological Materials Shipping Autoclave Safety Training OHSP Training Respiratory Protection	Available on BioRAFT!	https://evms.bioraft.com/
HAZCOM Bloodborne Pathogens Biological Safety in the Clinical Laboratory	Available on Blackboard!	https://evms.blackboard.com/

Morgue List

Looking for a chemical? Check out our [Morgue List](#)! Items on the list are offered and free to all research labs. Phone, come by, or look on the EH&S [Chemical Safety](#) web page to see what chemicals we have available!